

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith. The present Amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-7 are pending. Claims 1, 4 and 7, which are independent, are hereby amended. No new matter has been added. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification as originally filed and specifically on page 63 (paragraph [0211] of the published specification) and Figure 29. It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-5 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,493,041 to Hanko, et al. (hereinafter, merely “Hanko”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,835,144 to Matsumura, et al. (hereinafter, merely “Matsumura”) in further view of U.S. Patent No. 4,719,620 to Machino et al. (hereinafter, merely “Machino”) in further view of U.S. Patent No. 4,827,336 to Acampora, et al. (hereinafter, merely “Acampora”).

Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Hanko in view of Matsumura in further view of Machino, in further view of Acampora in further view of U.S. Patent No. 3,971,888 to Ching, et al. (hereinafter, merely "Ching").

III. RESPONSE TO REJECTIONS

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

“...wherein the level of an enable signal is set as a high level indicating valid data once a start code is detected and is set as a low level indicating invalid data once a frame end signal is detected... (Emphasis added)

Applicants submit that neither Hanko nor Matsumura nor Machino nor Acampora, taken alone or in combination, that would teach or suggest the above identified features of claim 1. Specifically, none of the references used as a basis for rejection describe the level of an enable signal is set as a high level indicating valid data once a start code is detected and is set as a low level indicating invalid data once a frame end signal is detected, as recited in claim 1.

Specifically, the Office Action (see page 4) asserts that Acampora teaches the enable signal must be altered between a high and low state to correctly activate the read and write enable signals, and refers to Acampora, col. 15, lines 51-65:

"A controller 86 decodes certain codes loaded into rate buffer 83, synchronizing codes which describe beginning or end of frame, synchronizing codes which describe beginning or end of scan line, other synchronizing codes where used, and codes that indicate what coding strategy was followed by the coder. These codes are supplied to controller 86 via a connection 87. Controller 86 responds to the synchronizing codes to time the sequence of write enable signals A,B,C,D,E,F,G,H and the sequence of read enable signals P,Q,R,S,T,U,V,W controller 86 transmits to the RAMS in the line-expander rate buffers of time-division demultiplexer 90. Controller 86 supplies control signal to

decoder LUT 82 via a connection 88 to modify its operating characteristics if controller 86 receives a code from frame rate buffer 83 indicating that similar action was taken in the coder to modify the operating characteristics of the coder LUT 63.”
(Acampora, column 15, lines 51-65)

However, Applicants submit that in Acampora, similar to the prior art Fig. 30 in the Specification, although the enable signal is altered between a high level and a low level, Acampora does not disclose the high level of the enable signal is synchronized with the start code and the low level of the enable signal is synchronized with the frame end signal, as recited in claim 1.

In the present invention, as shown in Fig. 29, the enable signal "enable" is set a value indicating invalid data in response to the "Frame End" signal, and the enable signal "enable" is set a value indicating valid data once a start code is detected, so that if a start code is not detected, the data is considered to be invalid (See, Specification, page 63, paragraph [0211] and Fig. 29). Thus, nothing has been found in Acampora that teaches the level of an enable signal is set as a high level indicating valid data once a start code is detected and is set as a low level indicating invalid data once a frame end signal is detected, as recited in claim 1.

Furthermore, this deficiency of Acampora is not cured by the supplemental teaching of Hanko or Matsumura or Machino.

Therefore, Applicants submit that independent claim 1 is patentable.

For reasons similar to those described above with regard to independent claim 1, independent claims 4 and 7 are patentable.

IV. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

Similarly, because Applicants maintain that all claims are allowable for at least the reasons presented hereinabove, in the interests of brevity, this response does not comment on each and every comment made by the Examiner in the Office Action. This should not be taken as acquiescence of the substance of those comments, and Applicants reserve the right to address such comments.

CONCLUSION

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of the statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited reference, or references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference, or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,
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